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The LABOUR ORGANISER

**Edited by
H. DRINKWATER**

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**THE
MARCH
BEGINS**

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**A Year of
Party
Development**

Proprietors: The National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents

ESTABLISHED 1920

LABOUR PARTY LIST OF D.L.P. ALTERATIONS

Index No.	Description	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
D9	CD	Buckingham D.L.P.	Mr. R. G. BELLCHAMBERS, 8, Vicarage Rd., Old Bradwell, Bletchley, Bucks.
F106	CD	Stroud D.L.P.	Mr. W. E. WADER, Green Farm, Fretterne, Glos.
G124	CD	St. Albans D.L.P.	Mr. C. A. C. REDWOOD, 148, Cat Hill, East Barnet, Herts.
DI43	CD	Tonbridge D.L.P.	Coun. Mrs. E. M. FRIEND, 24, Woodlands Road, Tonbridge, Kent.
B149	DMB	Bolton D.L.P.	Mr. J. M. FAGAN, Room 6, Spinners Hall, St. George's Rd., Bolton, Lancs.
E250	BD	Kensington North D.L.P.	Mr. W. J. BANKS, 92, Ladbroke Grove, London, W.11.
D224	SB	Edmonton B.L.P.	Mr. E. G. COLE, 372, Fore Street, Edmonton, London, N.9.
D299	CD	Wood Green & Southgate D.L.P.	Mr. G. D. DOWNIE, 715B, Green Lanes, London, N.21.
L309	CD	Kettering D.L.P.	THE SECRETARY, Trade Union Offices, Club Street, Kettering, Northants.
L322	BD	Nottingham Central D.L.P.	Mr. J. W. ROBBINS, 110, Portland Road, Nottingham.
F338	SB	Bath D.L.P.	Mr. R. ADAMS, 23, Green Park, Bath, Somerset.
G367	CD	Woodbridge D.L.P.	Mrs. E. HOWARD, 26, Fairfield Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk.
M413X	SB	Dudley I.L.P.	Mr. E. L. STOKES, 43, Vicarage Prospect, Dudley, Worcs.
C420	BD	Bradford Central D.L.P.	Mr. F. RIGBY, 246, Kensington Street, Gillington, Bradford, Yorks.
C429	BD	Hull North-West D.L.P.	Mr. J. WALTON, 25, Division Road, Hull.
C445	BD	Hillsborough D.L.P.	Miss J. MITCHELL, 28, Shirecliffe Lane, Sheffield 3.
C448	SB	York D.L.P.	Mr. E. L. KELD, 2, Railway Street, York.
H495	CD	Caerphilly D.L.P.	Mr. D. J. JONES, 15, Upper North Road, Bargoed, Glam.
J517	CD	North Ayr & Bute Div. T. & L.C.	Mr. A. MUNRO, 52, Glenriddet Avenue, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire.
J525	CD	Dumfriesshire D.L.P.	Mr. J. M. YOUNG, M.A., School House, Ruthwell, Dumfries.

OURSELVES

A Secretary writes:—

"You are putting some steam into the 'Labour Organiser' which helps to keep the right attitude. Surely our day must soon turn up once more when we can really get going."

Another Secretary writes:—

"I extend to you my approval and appreciation of the fact that the circulation of the 'Labour Organiser' is being maintained and is greater than when the war began. You richly deserve all the praise meted out to you

from time to time for your efforts. I trust that you are able for a long time to come to carry on the 'good work.'"

Additional Candidature

LANCS.: Liverpool, West Derby.—Mr. R. J. Lewis, Co-op., 82, Clapgate Lane, Ipswich.

Withdrawals

DERBYSHIRE: West.—Mr. C. F. White.
KENT: Dover.—Mr. W. H. Bennett.
LANCS.: Bolton.—Mr. E. Mellor, Mr. Will Nally.

The Labour Organiser

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The ILLS of DERBYSHIRE —WHEN THE WEST WIND BLEW

A whoop of delight went up in many Labour circles over the result of West Derbyshire. We ourselves perceived the outcome of the election with very mingled feelings. The defeat of the house of Cavendish was not, we regret, a Labour victory.

Let us be clear as to our own position. Had the Editor a vote in West Derbyshire it would under no circumstances have gone to a Cavendish; for loyalty to principles and true loyalty to Party are of more account than loyalty to mistaken leaders vainly urging Labour to cast aside its past and to sacrifice its future on the plea of Coalition expediency.

As to whether we would have voted for Charles White is another matter. We possibly would have done so, but it would have depended upon how far Socialist thought and endeavour formed part of his programme.

On this matter we have no conclusive evidence, but we do say from an intimate knowledge of this constituency, and an outside observation of how the election was conducted, that this was no outstanding victory for Labour's cause.

One of the most fatuous and stupid actions on the part of Tory managers, backed by Winston Churchill, led to a revolt that was spontaneous and extended to practically all the press and country. Thus was

the victory won, not for Labour, but for revolt.

* * *

But if Tory managers blundered, the action of Labour's leaders was flagrantly stupid, bound though they be with chains they themselves forged and recommended to the Party *twelve months after* they entered the Coalition. To tell Labour voters, and thousands of others in West Derbyshire, to vote for a Cavendish was like waving a red flag to a bull. The British Cabinet may know all about Teheran, Tobruk and Anzio, or the uttermost parts of the world, but they don't know West Derbyshire nor its history, nor the chafing of the chains of the House of Cavendish, which its people have borne for hundreds of years. Two Labour M.P.s came to rub the people's noses in the mess; they got it up their own instead.

Perhaps we had better place on record here our own knowledge of West Derbyshire. The Editor helped to form the first D.L.P. (in 1918 or 1919) and had continuous contact for many years, visiting and helping to form several L.L.P.s. He was on the scene when Charles White joined the Labour Party, later to become, for a short while, a paid Labour agent, and a few years afterwards the Parliamentary candidate.

If there is one constituency in Eng-

land where the territorial House sat like a blight on the land it was here. Behold Chatsworth and you behold feudal England adapting itself to reign by an abuse of democratic forms and the people's fear and ignorance. Thank God—not for a "Labour" victory, but that the spell is broken—and that despite the foolhardiness of those who would barter our birthright for a mess of Coalition.

* * *

Now let us apply a cooler to the comrades who think we have only to break the Electoral Truce to sweep the country and win as "we" did in West Derbyshire.

Unfortunately, it isn't like that at all. "We" didn't win at W.D. and we give it as our considered opinion that had the circumstances been normal the seat would hardly likely to have been won at all.

Again we emphasise that it was the revulsion of feeling against Cavendish antics, Tory pranks and official Labour prating that turned the tide. If these didn't account for 1,000 votes apiece,

enough to affect the result, we should be surprised.

There is ample evidence that after West Derbyshire the main Parties did a bit of thinking. That conference of our own N.E.C. with Labour Ministers could not have neglected this issue.

* * *

Is the Electoral Truce, long since worn so thin, now reduced to rags and tatters that the garment will shortly be discarded altogether? Or is the rumour true that the lower parts of the garment, which now don't cover the vulgar body in the country, will be thrown away; but the upper parts will provide brassières for our oh-so-delicate Ministers who mustn't be thumped in a rough and tumble at the polls?

We don't mind gambling on an attempt to meet this situation very soon. But met it must be, and Labour then, free to fight, will discover its real strength in the country and the urgent need of plans to develop it. For the lessons of the by-elections are misread if we assume that everybody else's victory was one that was rightly ours.

Secretary and Agent wanted

for the
**PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGH
OF ACCRINGTON**

Salary in accordance with the Labour Party scale.

Applications, stating age, experience and qualifications for the position, must be sent to

COUN. WM. HOWSON,
Labour Hall,
Blackburn Road,
Accrington,

not later than Wednesday, April 5th, 1944.

**THE WREKIN DIVISIONAL
LABOUR PARTY**

Full-Time Secretary and Agent

The Wrekin Divisional Labour Party are considering the appointment of a full-time Secretary and Agent. Salary in accordance with national scale.

Application forms to be obtained from Councillor J. E. Woollam, Morris Hall, Church Street, Wellington, Salop, and should be returned with two references not later than Saturday, April 22nd, 1944.

FORWARD - MARCH !

A Year of Party Development

Hurrah!

Ere reading that, we hadn't kicked our toes so high since that day 18 months ago when we married off the last of seven daughters, and broke the electric bulb! It hadn't been used for a long time, however, for the last nights of spoonery are always spent in darkness—are they not?

And here is a determination to revive the dry bones of our body politic; to get a move on; a gesture we believe that betokens more and much more of what is being planned by the Party Committees, but on which at present our lips, like Stanley Baldwin's, are sealed.

Sealed or no, comrades, to-day they wear a smile. For things, we believe, are moving—big things.

In a few weeks the Party must prepare its interim report to Annual Conference on its plans for the General Election; its proposals to reorganise and re-finance our Movement; its suggestion on how to get the biggest electoral machine ever created under full steam and puffing like billy-ho towards our goal.

We expect big things, great ideas, grand proposals. And the Movement must get ready to receive them and to implement them.

* * *

Psychologically we should have preferred the big picture first, to hear the whistle blow, and all start together. But our Party is above everything a sober-sides, cured of neurotics when it cut its wisdom teeth long, long ago. So it tells us there is something to be done *now*; that we needn't waste time; that we can begin on a campaign right away.

Hence for the present the whole machinery of the Party is to be concentrated on a membership campaign beginning "A Year of Party Development." In a circular the N.E.C. say:—

"The year 1944 will be a memorable year in our history. . . . We who are active members of the Labour Movement are convinced that only by the adoption of Socialist principles and the application of Socialist solutions shall

we succeed in building up a new order of political security and economic prosperity for all.

"It is an imperative necessity, therefore, that the Labour Movement, which is the instrument of Socialist policy and action in this country, should win political power.

"Parliament's present session may prove to be its last full session, and we may soon find ourselves within measurable distance of a General Election. That election will be a crucial one. Labour must be ready for it.

"It is clear that 1944 will be a period of decisive importance for the fortunes and future of the Labour Party. The National Executive Committee have decided that the time has now arrived when, without detriment or injury to the National war effort, the Party should undertake special efforts to revive its inner life and to build up Party membership. This is a prime necessity. . . .

"We must prepare for the future. We must make the power of the Labour Party commensurate with its present duties and impending responsibilities. We must be ready for the great tasks that loom ahead.

"The Party's power depends upon its effective strength throughout the nation. The real criterion is the size, the talents, and the virile activity of its membership. A second criterion lies in the aggregate number of votes which it secures at a General Election. This will be determined mainly by the strength of the appeal made by Labour's positive policies, the prestige of the Party in the community, and the public influence of the Party's membership.

"With all this in mind, the National Executive call upon all sections of the Party to make 1944 'A Year of Party Development,' an important aspect of which is to be carefully-planned and well-organised individual membership recruitment."

That then is the argument. Is there any soul so base as to deny its import?

The methods of this campaign are

being put before the L.L.P.s by circular and visits. But the L.L.P.s are not being left to fight alone.

The campaign and ideas of membership are to be boosted in T.U. journals. It is among Trade Unionists that canvassers frequently find reluctance to add yet another subscription. We hope copies of the articles will be reprinted for local use. Para. extracts from several journals might be printed in one leaflet. The canvasser would have something to quote to all.

But there is also special literature for this campaign; several striking leaflets, and above all an 8-page leaflet entitled, "Build Your Own Future: A Citizen's Guide to Effective Politics."

This leaflet compiled, we believe, by Ald. Donald Daines, of the London Labour Party, is one of the most effective explanations of the objects of membership and on the functioning of our Party, which have ever yet been produced. We congratulate the author on an ideal piece of work, for the leaflet is just the thing some Parties have been long asking for—a simple, concise and complete answer as to how and why a person should join the Party and how he can act when in it.

This then is the Spring work. It would set the pace at the Annual Conference if Constituency Parties reported well. They have called for action. This *is* action.

And if, as some would suggest, it looks like handing back the baby, let us assure them, from our own knowledge, that if this is so it is only so that the next one shall be born. We believe, indeed, we think we know, that the N.E.C. are in their birth-pangs even now. We wait without the door.

And a father's blessings on their labour; likewise a mother's prayer.

We note that the canvassing in Kingston-on-Thames continues to show good results. On a recent Sunday morning two comrades made 25 new members; all paid a quarter ahead or more. The membership, which stood at 73 a year ago is now 550. 5,000 copies of a printed issue of the Kingston Labour News were recently circulated; the normal monthly issue of a duplicated copy is 700.

If your Party had set itself the task of a special study of Local Govern-

ment this spring, how would you set about it?

Our advice would be to take a lesson from Greenwich, for the Labour Party there has set about this task in a way that makes all one can say sound simply insufficient. Greenwich, in short, has set a new high level which it will be hard to beat or equal.

With eight more or less famous London lecturers, Greenwich has gone in for a series of lectures as follows:—

Outline of Municipal Government:

Ald. Jos. Reeves.

Public Health: Dr. H. B. Morgan, M.P.

Housing: F. W. Dalley, R.C.A.

Town Planning: Lewis Silkin, L.C.C., M.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare: Esther Rickards, M.S., F.R.C.S., L.C.C.

Rates: J. H. Humphries, F.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A.

The London County Council: Bernard Sullivan, L.C.C.

The future of Local Government: Ald. Charles Key, M.P.

Were the above programme all it would be worthy, but set out in a fine duplicated 14 pp. quarto booklet (the highly to be commended work of the Expedite Duplicating Bureau, 51, Tothill Street, S.W.1) are the arrangements for each lecture, a personal note of the speaker, and, most valuable of all, each subject is given a bibliography, some quite long ones, and containing information where these books may be seen or obtained. This feature alone must have occupied much time to compile; yet it is invaluable.

Congratulations to Greenwich L.P. on a piece of work that will cause comment.

Thanks to A. Stewart Rainbird (East Ham North) for "The Internationale" revised and up-to-date with new words. But, oh, those words! Why can't we have a simple la-la Labour without the high-faluting so foreign to English ears. The sturdy German has, we suppose, been censored from our songs. Why introduce Russia, who, maybe, we'll cut out in the *next* war for liberty!

Sorry, old pal, but our head is screwed on so tight that to-day we content ourselves with "These you have loved," and the old songs and the old sentiments take some beating.

HOW TO GET THOSE WHOM WE WANT INTO THE PARTY

Fourth Article

Selectivity is one of the words which has recently come into use regarding Party membership.

Why, yes, certainly. But as we have shown in these articles we should have preferred clarity and elucidation on a number of points concerning membership; in particular concerning continuity of membership instead of yearly membership, and transferability of membership—its country-wide applicability, not to mention such details as a reorientation of the fields we want to cover, and how we are going to get them all to mix.

But selectivity certainly. I am all for selective breeding. And curiously there is a connection, for the loudest exponents in the country of eugenics don't breed at all, or hardly at all (for which God be thanked); and as to selectivity regarding membership, too much preaching of it may also mean no increase of members at all.

* * *

As we have pointed out before, the word can and will be seized upon by many Local Party officials to cover up failure or lack of real effort. We have heard the gag before—"it isn't lots of members we want, but the *right sort* of members"; the right sort of course being the old gang with no interlopers to disturb the slumbers of Democracy.

The word selectivity seems to us to offer too great a temptation to those who make no effort. Of course we want quality, but who on earth gave some of our miserable little Parties the idea that they were IT—quality, God's elect, the chosen people! In the back streets of all our great cities we find little halls and tiny traces of tawdry creeds that live on such words. They never get anywhere in this world, and despite their cocksureness, they won't get any further in the next. May Labour Party membership never fall to this low estate—though it's pretty near it in some places.

But because we have warned as to

the dangers of selectivity wrongly applied we must not be supposed to be attacking the general desirability of being selective in our choice of members: quote the contrary.

* * *

Our previous series of articles on "Whom do we want in the Labour Party?" clearly indicated that we believe a general onslaught on the electorate to be less desirable and less effective than to first clearly see whom we desire to enlist.

And we must here place on record our belief that the Labour Party has not yet reached finality in its methods of organising its functioning membership so as to allow large new sections to come in.

We believe that in certain strata of industry and society there are loads of prospective members who cannot function in the ordinary way. Fear of snob classes makes the Party hesitate to provide any sort of remedy at all for this sort of thing. We just wait, for instance, till the lawyers form a Haldane Society or the doctors form a Socialist Medical Association, and then we affiliate them. The other classes await a similar upshot and we are content that it should be so.

This really is not *our* idea of how the doctors, the lawyers, the civil servants, the local government officers, the experts in industry, commerce and science, and the rest, should be approached—if approach it is.

Our articles on the subject were not merely a geographical review of a large field for cultivating an enlarged and immensely powerful membership. They were intended to enlarge our vision, to prompt "selectivity" as a jumping-off point, and to suggest that our chances should be availed of by revised ideas of membership getting, in some quarters, and of membership organisation also.

There we leave that matter, but not selectivity as a subject. We are at

one with those who think that selectivity wisely practised could improve the power and force of Local Parties, even without diminishing the inflow of new blood: just as we would be at war with those over-zealous and even over-jealous comrades who would draw a magic circle round themselves and make it very difficult for anyone to break in.

We have seen tragic happenings occur through carelessness in admissions. There are all sorts of people with an axe to grind who *want* to get into the Party and who find ingress too easy. They have sometimes hardly taken their seats before they begin moving resolutions condemning the Party for this or that; and by spreading distrust and unrest they seek to break up the work of those who have preceded them in membership by years and years. When a train travels the long distance passengers do not give up their seats to locals travelling maybe only to the next station!

This is why we have emphasised our point about continuous membership. Under Party rules none of us are Party members unless and until we receive our membership cards for the particular year. No value is placed on continuity, so how can members rightly claim (under the rules) that doubtful newcomers have less at stake than they have? Once admitted, all are equal and all have the same stake, the same qualification to perform, the same card, the same everything—there is not even a qualifying period for the highest office in the gift of a Local Party.

* * *

There is much to be said for a probationary period of membership; but the balance of feeling is always against it. There remains only the virtue of being careful.

An invitation to membership once issued and accepted is a delicate thing to withdraw. But we do feel that all application forms ought to bear the following or similar words: "This application is subject to the approval of the ——— Constituency Labour Party, who will issue membership card or return interim subscription paid within 28 days."

We will not here give further advice on care in canvassing, or in broadcasting application forms (a waste we have

referred to before). These things will readily occur from what has been said.

It must be remembered that any real danger comes, not from the usual genuine sympathiser who still may be only half a Socialist, but from the fly and knowledgeable person who has practised politics before, or those who, maybe, approach the Party while suffering from a surfeit of Party criticism gained from Labour journals themselves. And because Labour hasn't a journal of its own it suffers these ills from those who shade under its umbrella!

(To be continued).

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A residential college as a memorial to Trade Unionists killed in the war is part of the post-war plans of the National Council of Labour Colleges. The proposed residential college is not intended as a monument to the past, but as a living instrument by means of which the Trade Union Movement can help to create the kind of society for which the many thousands of trade unionists will have sacrificed their lives.

What Sort of an Election?

(SECOND ARTICLE)

Only a Rip Van Winkle could to-day imagine the next General Election as a sort of Churchill's Circus, with the proprietor touring the country distributing largesse and free tickets, otherwise coupons, for a sanctioned and sanctified entry to the House of Commons under the favoured banner.

Electors and events have destroyed that dream—if ever the wily Winston had it, which we believe is true. And in the process, and because of the process, Mr. Churchill's stock has suffered.

The Prime Minister's hat, however, is still in the ring, though among the possibilities now to be reckoned with is that Mr. Churchill will *not* lead either Coalition or Unionist forces at the election, but will hand over the leadership to another.

Indeed, this move must be expected. But, if, as certain strategists of various parties are planning, Mr. Churchill retires for the election only in the expectation of a come-back afterwards, that plan is not likely to work, as far as the Labour Party is concerned, in reviving a Coalition scrapped before or at the election.

The rank and file of Labour would not stand for a sham fight, and the prevalent mood is that once Labour is done with the entanglements of Coalition, it will go all out in future for its own policy and programme.

* * *

But "dishing Labour" is to-day one of the most deeply-rooted frailties of our opponents. We propose to give a lengthy study to the possibilities and processes in this matter. For to be forewarned is to be forearmed, and in no election since our Party was formed has Labour succeeded in anticipating the deceptions of its foes, nor even in beating gross election trickery when practised.

We make bold to say that all the "I-won-the-war" bluster with which Lloyd George won the 1918 election, is on this occasion going to cut little ice. Mr. Churchill's ill-fated recent attempts to exploit his war position has indeed

given proofs of that. And after a Totalitarian war the electors are more likely to give sole claimants a kick in the pants than to reward their pretensions.

But that doesn't mean that the war won't be exploited. There are abundant interests to be angled for, a seedsman's catalogue of varieties of carrots for this or that section, and smoke clouds of huge dimension to be created to befog the public mind and lead away from clear decision.

* * *

Paradoxical as it may appear, we believe the electors at the next election will hear more of policies than they have had for the past 64 years—since 1880 to be exact; but it is around these policies that all the chicanery and trickery of politicians and electioneers will be centred. We may certainly get the stunts and scares as of yore: quite possibly the plea for a strong Government to present a bold front to — or —; or another financial scare; quite conceivably another war scare. The masses will be swayed, but all other things being equal, it will be the picture of policies as they are presented to the electors, that will decide the issue. What will those pictures be?

Let no one suppose to-day that "Labour is the only Party with a policy." That is no longer true. Labour's example has been followed by the others. Each Party has had its investigators, its advisers, research and reports, not to say its writers. And the "trend to the left" is catered for by all of them.

The glad new world may take different shape in different minds, but all Parties offer it—the biggest carrot ever grown, but if it gets the donkey to do a certain thing the victors can take care of the future: and themselves.

As Big Business, Communists, Common Wealth, "Democratic" Torydom, livened-up Liberalism, "National" (and maybe reinforced) Labour, and Independents all present (and misrepresent) their respective panaceas, the

voter certainly will get a choice: but with what a deluge of deception.

Already the preliminary sparring throws light on the coming confusion. Big Business gets ready. But it doesn't do so with a frontal attack on the Labour Party. Indeed, no: to-day it seeks to patch up a truce with Trade Unionism, even a lasting peace. For isn't it better they suggest for Trade Unionism to treat with few instead of many employers and particularly if those employers beam with appreciation and goodwill: are ready indeed to concede high wages, knowing the security is good?

And while Big Business offers thus its hand in unity (we few can rule the world) it quietly snaffles another trick in another direction—plus one to two million votes—by coming out as the champion and protection of the "little" man, who looks like going for a ride on a tiger.

* * *

Big Business, a bigger thing than the Tory Party, will want watching at this next General Election. It has all at stake now: have the workers? Big Business has "got the men and got the money too": have we?

In short, we believe Big Business will go all out in delusive policies, several if necessary; in publicity; in subsidies and seduction, and in any other direction that will sabotage a Labour victory.

That some organisations are prepared to steal Labour's thunder is clear enough already. But to try to out-bid Labour is more than a possibility. Hasn't Mr. Morrison recently told us that the Tories enact more Socialism than anybody else? Not that we have noted this Socialism, but if a plausible case can be made out for the statement isn't it going to be exploited? "Here, comrades, is the old firm. Best value for money. Safe, Sound, Secure. True, tried and trusted. Vote Socialist! Vote Tory!!" And there are mugs enough, high and low, to make this cry, slightly mellowed, pay!

But the battle of policies can be left now in order to enumerate some of the dodges which seem to be brewing.

Angling for the Services vote is already a pastime in Parliament and in speeches outside. One wonders if the

Services will really regard increases paid towards the close of a war as sufficient cause for gratitude to award their vote for it, remembering the niggardly attitude throughout; whether the Services vote qua Services vote actually amounts to even one-fifth of the persons mobilised, considering that under conscription the forces are not primarily fighters but citizens; and further, whether the Party bidding too high may not actually come unstuck with home services and munition workers. There is cause for speculation here.

But controls, demobilisation difficulties, reinstatement of jobs, taxation problems, housing and the order of it, interim unemployment, etc., etc., are all matters for quack remedies and election jerryandering.

Nor need Labour suppose that its erstwhile friends are going to forego their opportunity to exploit the war measures of certain Labour Ministers. The plaudits are already sounding light: the punches will be heavy enough. But of these matters more next month.

(To be continued)

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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SOME REPORTS AND BALANCE SHEETS

Party reports have this year been extraordinarily slow in coming in. This, we understand, in some cases is due to printing being dispensed with, and even duplicating in other cases. We fear, however, that in many instances there is a shyness to report a mere marking-time.

Yet, from the reports so far to hand, that appears to have been the rule rather than the exception; indeed, so humdrum are this year's reports that in justice to readers we must economise space upon them. Most Parties have saved a little money, but of evidence of a great forward movement, or revived fortunes, or big successes, there is precious little.

In saying that, we do not disregard the fact that the same effort which in normal times would have produced fine results has been necessary in these exceptional times, even to keep Parties alive. Looked at in that light, every report we have received has its satisfactory features. We do, indeed, congratulate all the officers on their not unsubstantial successes in the circumstances, and we look forward to the changing atmosphere of 1944 to give them all high results before the year is out.

* * *

KENT FEDERATION.—A year of manifold and useful work hampered for want of funds. A Party problem.

ROTHERHAM.—A report produced in really pre-war style. A local red-book, crammed with local information, each section getting the limelight. Funds 50 per cent. up. Income locally raised, over £400.

CLITHERHOE.—A delight to get a well-printed report. Membership (1,236) slightly up. Cash in hand doubled at £164, exclusive of Election Fund.

IPSWICH.—A wonder report. £965 locally raised, including £500 from competitions. Election Fund £600, Development Fund £283, and a further surplus of £243, all invested.

HALIFAX.—Nicely printed report. Membership, 1,705, produced £334. Saving on year £68. Balance £278.

EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH L.P.—Detailed report. Many activities. 774

membership cards produced £97 from the Wards. Year of useful work and consolidation.

HARROW L.L.P.—Women, unabated zeal. Youth, weekly functions. Organisation, two organising secretaries. Funds at £228 are £15 up. Locally raised income over £300.

WEST LEYTON.—Nearly 20 tabulated activities reported upon. Accounts presented with unusual clarity and detail.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES BOROUGH L.P.—Exceptionally clear and detailed accounts. Income, roughly £80, encouraging for a Party not so long ago nearly extinct.

MALDEN L.L.P.—Same Division as Kingston. Year of steady work. Aver-I.M. subscription 3/1½—a substantial attainment.

HENDON BOROUGH L.L.P.—A well-conducted Party whose able report emphasises our opening comment. Just a usual year, but reports the end of political slump and increased membership. Funds up by £40.

FAVERSHAM.—Progress all round. Faversham reorganised and on the up. Sittingbourne arising from the dead; nearly 100 members. Sheerness, where the dubs seem to lie, own their own premises and have £1,000 to boot. An encouraging, friendly sort of report.

CITY OF LEEDS.—A weighty report as becomes a Party with 45 city representatives and soon we hope to rule again. Affiliation fees £467, a substantial figure. Assets £1,380. Tendency of I.M. to increase throughout city.

CENTRAL LEEDS D.L.P.—Income locally raised over £300. Assets £280. A ding-dong year of work.

DARLINGTON.—Change in collecting to monthly basis proved beneficial. Saving on year £221.

GLOUCESTER.—An old movement rising from almost submergence to renewed life. Putting members on and maintaining life of useful monthly.

CITY OF BRADFORD.—Financial position satisfactory. All D.L.P. now free from debt. Membership campaigns in three Wards added 600-700 new members.

Planning for Power

—AND TEN SUGGESTIONS

By PERCY ROBSON, Agent and Secretary, Middlesbrough

Post-war planning appears to be the prerogative of priest, painter, plumber and politician. Well-nigh everybody is preparing to ride his own particular "hobby-horse" and to paint the spots at pre-conceived vantage points, either for self-preservation, privilege or posterity.

It must be reasonable to assume that a General Election is not more than, say, 12 years ahead of us, and maybe 12 months is a more accurate forecast. Whatever the date, the same question requiring early consideration by the "Maintenance Department" of the Party is that of publicity and propaganda.

In recent years the Press and Publicity Department has excelled with pamphlets in coats of many colours. An attractive saleable commodity for the local literature salesman. Good work which solves only a small part of our problem. A much more intricate job lies ahead for which some preparation ought to be in the making right now. It would be foolish to expect immediate answers to the following questions, but urgency requires that they be asked:—

Ideas

1. There must be some hundreds of novel ideas in the Local Parties which would be of service to the whole Movement. Has anyone ever attempted to collate and make them available to the Movement generally?

Modern Microphones

2. It is a safe guess to say that there will be 300 to 400 loud-speaker amplifying sets in the constituency Parties. Also, that not more than a few dozen are using the lapel (button) microphone, which has the advantage of giving back to the speaker freedom of movement and natural personality. Picture speakers at meetings grimacing and holding on to the tripod microphone. One look and bang goes another deposit.

Hoardings

3. Many new housing estates are blessed by the absence of hoardings. What of our own hoardings on these

estates at election time, with the vantage points previously spotted and promised? This was tried out successfully in '35 with 6oin. by 4oin. sketch photos of the candidate and also a streamer-type poster, size 11ft. by 4ft., with snappy slogans thereon—and all floodlit on those memorable November nights.

Posters

4. Do we remember the "Tried, Trusted and True" photo poster of "Honest Stanley"?

Why not one of Labour's leader with space to overprint locally?

Fancy Clem's finger directing thus: Take my tip, Drinkwater.

Window-dressing

5. How many election agents have thought it advisable to become acquainted with a professional window-dresser, so that Committee Room windows may look reasonably decent next time, by way of a change?

Talkie Outfits

6. What data are we collecting on the travelling talkie outfit and the approximate cost to Parties for an arranged tour? One expects that countryside constituencies will plump for this solution to their "national speaker" problem. Is the agricultural labourer going to see and hear the Party leaders on the village green?

Coloured Window Cards

7. How many of us have seen the excellent coloured window card used by George Isaacs in the Southwark North by-election?

Neon Lights?

8. Will our Regional Offices be Neon sign-lighted and shall we have literature showcases outside these premises?

Publicity

9. Have we any business friends from whom we can stake our claim for renting the hoardings for publicity on a national scale when required?

A particular brand of salts is alleged to make one jump a five-bar gate. Would the same boost to Party policy jump majorities by 5,000? Why not?

(Concluded on page 13)

This is Personal . . .

MRS. M. E. ANDERSON

Th retirement of Mrs. M. E. Anderson, Woman Organiser to the North-Western area, nearly ten years before reaching the age limit, is to be deeply regretted, as the retirement takes place on health grounds.

"Maisie," as Mrs. Anderson has been known to so many friends, was a fighter born. Her strenuous life has doubtless taken toll of her health, and we shall join with many, many admirers in wishing her recovery and a happy long life in her enforced seclusion—if indeed she does rest, and does retire from our battles, which we doubt.

One of the longest service officers of the Party, Mrs. Anderson joined the staff in 1918—about the same time as the Editor. She had done some battling as an I.L.P. organiser, and her forte *was* battle, particularly in by-elections. She took up an area position in the North-Western District in 1920 on the occasion of the strengthening of Headquarters staff and the division of the country into areas.

Mrs. Anderson is the wife of Frank Anderson, M.P., who is five years her senior. They are young people yet as politics go and we hope to still watch their smoke.

A letter to us shows that Mrs. Anderson is not happy at this juncture, nor should we expect it. She looks forward, however, to work with the rank and file. That she be granted strength for it will be the wish of all her friends.

MR. WILLIAM HOWSON

Mr. Wm. Howson, agent and secretary Accrington Labour Party, whose retirement is announced to take place at the end of this month under the age limit, is another familiar figure, who now gives place to another.

Will Howson is a Yorkshireman who joined the Red Rose long ago, and who has long been regarded as a true Lancastrian. He was one of the early Ruskin College students, and over 40 years of Labour service since then has proved the wisdom of that education and the worth of it to the movement.

Formerly at Bolton, Will has been agent at Accrington for 22 years. We have warned him against the killer—re-

tirement—and back comes the answer which shows that the warrior has his sports and interests, gardening among them—the joy of all real gentlemen, and, we gather, Will will not be absent at the Election. We could not think so—nor could he!

A long and happy and a full life, friend. You're just beginning!

JOHN TAYLOR

Readers will be pleased to learn that Jock Taylor, so long an invalid in Glasgow, is on the mend—so much so that he's back at work! We are delighted, so too will be his many friends South and North of the Border.

(Concluded from page 12)

Pay for Entertainment

10. When are we going to learn that our indoor propaganda will be more effective once we get the habit of charging for admission?

We want someone to specialise on this work at Head Office and maybe to arrange for Party secretaries, agents and members to submit ideas. One winner in a hundred would make the trouble worth while.

Then why cannot this be followed by a demonstration of election equipment at Annual Conference? Yes, this year. With the sessions carefully timed and someone with knowledge of the business to demonstrate, I venture to say that delegates, candidates and agents would welcome an opportunity to attend such an exhibition as compared with the present arrangement of finding a literature stall here, Workers' Film Association show there, plus a spate of invitations to attend and support causes which cannot prevail until an effective machine successfully presents our policy to the country.

And here is a footnote to point the above suggestions and also to back up other suggestions that have been made in the "L.O." The extract below is from "Reynolds News" for February 27th:—

Tory Party Headquarters are making elaborate plans for the next election. Highly-paid publicity experts are to be employed. There will be a special section to deal with film propaganda, which will be taken by mobile projectors to the smallest villages.

A Matter of Confidence

CONFIDENCE WANTED. CONFIDENCE CAN CURE

By **ALBERT CHAPMAN**, Chairman, Dulwich Labour Party

Labour policy is not so indefinite as some of our Tory critics complacently pretend, or as some of our supporters anxiously suspect. Yet it does appear sufficiently evasive to present a formidable obstacle to local Executives in organising and rallying Party members. The paralysing effect of the Truce spreads everywhere, from the top to the doorstep. The result is hope deferred, suspicion, grim loyalty, apathy, and sometimes revolt—a confusion which neither the Party nor the cause for which it stands can sustain indefinitely. In these circumstances the immense political resources of the Labour Party are in danger of being sealed off, and Parties with slender resources are able to achieve spectacular results because they have a free field, without Truce or confusion.

* * *

It is all a matter of confidence. There is no doubt that the chilly shadow of 1931 still hangs over the Party. Deepening the gloom of the Truce, it hinders recruiting, impedes organisation and engenders reservation and inactivity in members. Such facts are serious and must be faced. We know that suspicion can be an all too easy excuse for inactivity and that real grounds for confidence are sometimes ignored by those who like to substitute ardour for activity. Yet the bulk of our vocal members are no more escapists than are our elected leaders.

It may be belatedly arguable whether Labour wisely entered the Coalition at all; it may be advisable soon to leave it; there is no support for its permanence. But no Party unsure of its deep roots in the people could have taken such a risk. Those responsible for taking it knew well enough

that confidence in the integrity of leadership was sure to suffer under the strain, even when reinforced by democratic renewal. It is merely silly to suppose that "Transport House" is unaware of its crucial, world-wide responsibility, and worse than silly to forget that the Executive is not self-appointed. If it is right—and I think it is—to regard the Tory "reformers" as sheltering behind a war-time defensive façade, it is equally right to refuse to regard Labour's war-imposed compromises as a voluntary defection from policy. On this matter Mr. Morrison's own paradoxical humour does not help; the serious rank and file are too concerned to appreciate the quip that "Socialism is being introduced by the Conservatives who don't believe in it."

Socialism will not be introduced by anybody until there are enough Socialists in the country to make it possible—and that is not yet. The "swing to the Left" includes many who have never before heard of Socialism, who do not understand it, and who would probably reject it if they did. Meantime, the conditions precedent to a Socialist society are daily taking shape. In shaping them, Labour's work in the Cabinet may prove to have been of first-rate value. It may not. In any case, nothing can be effectively done there, in the long run, if Labour rejects it, and if the country is as consciously progressive as hectic episodes make it appear to be.

* * *

The battle will be joined at the next election and that election—and the peace—will not be really won unless Labour itself, meaning the rank and file of the Party membership, is consciously and intelligently Socialist.



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SPECIAL TERMS FOR QUANTITIES—See Page 10

THE WORKERS' FILM ASSOCIATION LTD.

The Workers' Film Association, Ltd. recently completed its third year of activities. The Secretary-Manager, Alderman J. Reeves, was able to report at the annual meeting that trade had increased by £2,466 and had reached the total of £9,193. There had been a notable increase in the number of Road Shows arranged. In the previous year, the Association provided 548 such shows, whereas last year, the number increased to 890. In the first month of the present year no fewer than 132 shows were arranged, which is easily a record.

During the year, 16,000 reels of films were distributed to democratic organisations, schools and education authorities, Anglo-Soviet Committees and Scientific Societies. The Association distributes films for most of the Allied Governments and negotiations are in progress with the American Government for handling American educational films.

A successful film school was held at Brighton, at which Mr. Michael Balcon and Mr. Oliver Bell, two leading figures in the film world, delivered stimulating addresses on problems relating to the use of the film for the enlightenment of the public. It is interesting to note that the Film School this year will be held at the Birmingham University, during the period July 22nd to 29th. An innovation will be a school in Scotland from July 14th to 17th in Edinburgh.

It was reported that the library established by the Association in Glasgow under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society was distributing an increasing number of films only limited by the restrictions on the supply of raw stock. The series of folders prepared outlining a scheme to provide film shows in any part of

the country for the sum of £5 10s. on Social Security, Housing and Town Planning and Educational advance have resulted in a big demand for film shows to illustrate lectures on a variety of subjects.

YOUTH—BUT NOT ALWAYS

To-day there is a universal call for younger candidates, due largely to the excessive number of impotent old men who continue to sit in the present moribund House of Commons.

But is a Tory youth a good substitute for an older man of sound Socialist conviction? Let us be careful or by our own words we fall into a Tory trap, for the Tories are always as willing to exploit the youth of a blushing bridegroom as to make use of the mumbling mummies who sit and vote in the House of Lords and elsewhere.

Some men are "too old at forty," and not to be trusted earlier in life. Other men retain their vitality right into late life. The Premiers of Britain have been mostly old but virile men.

Youth should not be worshipped as a fetish or flattered to fan a passing whim. We look silly by frantically boosting the juvenility of a candidate in one constituency while proclaiming the experience and service of an older man next-door.

The next election is going to see a lot of this dodgery. If youth is a man's only asset (as it was in the case of Lord Cavendish) we should vote for an octogenarian. So, too, if a candidate is to be a mere voting machine in Parliament then the young men had better be doing a man's work outside.

Local Labour Parties should weigh all considerations in making their choice. The greatest weight of all should be given to the mind and mentality of the candidate and the service of which he is capable.

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